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THE CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP
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The Co.'s Steamship
Zafiro,
Captain TALBOT, will be
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will leave for the above
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E. L. W.

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P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, June 9, 1886. 113

**CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
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The Steamship
Sookong,
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despatched as above on
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Agents.**
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Captain J. H. WILSON, will be
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Hongkong, June 7, 1886. 112

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mander, w
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The above rate of 20th instant
 This Steamer has excellent Passage
 Accommodation.
 For Freight or Passage, apply to
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 (With liberty to call at KOBE)
 The Steamship

 C. W. PEARSON, Com-
 mander will be
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June 9 1886

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SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO,
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The Co.'s Steamship *Bardonia* will be despatched above on or about the 3rd July.

To be followed by the Steamship *Manila* on or about the 3rd August.

The Steamers have an splendid Accommodation for Passengers and carry a Doctor and Stewards.

For further Particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to
CARLOWITZ & Co.,
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Hongkong, June 6, 1889.

Sailing Vessels,

FOR SANDAKAN
The German Barque
Captain **P. H. Dreys,**

DAY, the 15th J

For Freight or Passage, apply to
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, June 10, 1886. 114

FOR HONOLULU.
The Hawaiian Brig
Alma Rowe,
J. PHILLIPS, Master, will meet
with quick despatch for the
above Port.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
WHEELER & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, May 8, 1886. 89

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
The 3/8 L.L.I. American Ship
John Currier,
J. B. BARNES, Master, will leave
here for the above Port, and
will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, March 26, 1886. 61

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
The 3/8 L.L.I. American Ship
John Currier,
J. B. BARNES, Master, will leave
here for the above Port, and will
have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, June 2, 1886. 108

to them, resembling in this latter respect, but on a smaller scale, the English Colonial Exhibition open at present in London. An arrangement is to be made whereby the various types of men-of-war, vessels of commerce, yachts, pleasure canoes, fishing boats, life boats and floating engines may be under inspection from 10 days to two months, at a low rate for space occupied, and with all the right of competing before the jury attached to the permanent exhibits. Awards in silver and objects of art are to be given. The exhibition is of a unique and novel character and will likely draw to Harrow, a large patriotic French, numbers from every nation interested in maritime affairs and maritime products.

Only one British Parliament since the union of Ireland with England in 1801 has had a shorter existence than the one which is about to be dissolved. The present Parliament assembled first on the 12th January, so that if the dissolution be announced within the next few days, as it probably will, it will only have lived five months; and in that brief space, a Conservative Government has been defeated and compelled to resign and a Liberal Government has also been defeated, and will, in all probability, be also compelled to resign shortly. Of course during these five months, the question of Home Rule has almost entirely monopolised the attention of the House, greatly to the detriment of other important matters. Mr Gladstone's bill has led to the disruption of the Liberal party, and to his own defeat. He will now appeal to the country on the same question, and we are afraid the verdict of the people will be against him just as the verdict was against him in the House of Commons. This will again give the reins of Government to the Conservatives, who are assured of the support of the Harrow and Chamberlain elements on the question of Home Rule, that is, for the rejection of Home Rule. Whether this will improve the condition of Ireland, or facilitate the work of the House of Commons is very doubtful. It is thought very unlikely that Gladstone will obtain a majority. In any case, the election battle will be keen and close, and Great Britain and Ireland is likely to suffer from greater political agitation than they have done for many years past.

Mr Robert Hart, Inspector General of Customs, left Shanghai on Saturday, the 10th inst, in the *Yangtze* on a visit to the southern ports and Hongkong.

So anxious are the Samoan Islanders to be recognised as British Colonists that they sent a number of exhibits to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. The Commissioners were actually so hard-headed, however, as to refuse the exhibits admittance.

We are requested to state that Divine Service will, by kind permission of Captain Grierson, be conducted on board the British battleship *Edinburgh* by the Rev. G. G. Goldsmith at 11 o'clock on Sunday forenoon. The British flag will be hoisted on board.

It is believed that great annoyance has been felt in France at the steps taken by the Chinese Government towards establishing a Chinese Legation in Rome and inducing the Holy See to send a Nuncio to Peking, so as to do away with the French Nuncio to the Vatican. The French Government is said to be using all means in their power to stay the action of the Pope in this matter, and several Cardinals are bestirring themselves in the same direction. Naturally one of the strongest upholders of the French claims in China is Cardinal Lavigerie. The Holy See is said to have assured France that even in the event of acceding to the wishes of China, nothing at all would be done to interfere with the protectorate of French influence in the East. The Government of the Republic is however dissatisfied with these undertakings, and the move as to send of the Nuncio to Peking is said to be in some measure a protest against the French claims. Rome meanwhile proceeds slowly and surely, as usual. The officials of the Secretariat of State are busy with the study of the various despatches and it will be some time before their report to the Commission of Cardinals will be ready. It is still believed that the Pope in some measure of way is believed to represent the Chinese Government, is having very long interviews with various highly-placed personages in the Vatican especially Cardinal Jacobini. Everybody, of course, can see that the question affects far-reaching international, as well as religious and political interests.—*Tablet*.

Save the Straits Times.—It is interesting to study the Singapore rainfall tables, and to observe how every few years, varying apparently from 8 to 10, we have a very large annual fall of rain and a smaller fall than the average every five years. Such seems to be the result more or less generally if we look at the records from the Government office. It is hard to see how the effect of the rain-bearing clouds, there is no reason for supposing a very great influence on it. Chatter is however little doubt that forest destruction does influence rainfall materially. Of this many proofs may be adduced but in further confirmation, attention may be drawn to an article in an American paper called the *Southern States* upon the forest destruction going on recently in that country; the trees of which the forest of humanity is the destruction in the Western Alleghenies should continue at the present rate, the yearly inundations of the Ohio valley will soon assume an appalling aspect, and ere long, the scenes of the river suburbs of Louisville and Cincinnati will repeat what has happened at Nashville and Chattanooga, and the summers will become hotter and drier. In the Gulf States the work of destruction has made alarming advances. Brooks and streams shrink from year to year, and warm summers expose the gravel of river beds which fifty years ago, could hardly be reached by the heels of heavy iron shoes. The *Southern States* says: "Everywhere the Paradise of the Blue Grass Region, the falling of springs has driven many stock raisers with their herds to the mountains. In Florida during the first five months of the year the fall was unusually small, but in June, it was heavy, falling during the first five months of the year, and the records of rainfall at Singapore show

conclusively that as the jungle has been cleared away from the neighbourhood of the town, rain is not so frequent or copious as when it used to be said of Singapore that it rained every day.

DISINFECTION BY HEAT.

Disinfection by heat has recently been made the subject of a series of interesting, valuable and practical experiments by Dr Parsons, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board, (Whitehall), who has contributed the results of his investigations into this important subject as a supplement to the recently-issued Report of the Board. These results are of universal value, and should be carefully studied not only by Governments but by every private individual, more especially in places which are liable to infectious visitations. From a summary of the paper issued in No. 1 of Vol. xxvii of *The Practitioner*, we gather that Dr Parsons, who was assisted by Dr Klein, had been induced to make the experiments by the modern discovery that certain communicable diseases are connected with microbes in the blood, and his object was to ascertain, if possible, under what circumstances micro-organisms are destroyed, with a view of learning the conditions necessary for effectual disinfection. In this, Dr Parsons and Klein succeeded beyond expectation. Selecting as the true test of disinfection the most 'stable known infective' matter—the virus of swine plague, of tuberculosis and of anthrax—strips of flannel were steeped in the respective infective fluids, dried in the air, wrapped separately and loosely in a sheet of paper, then placed in a chamber, and surrounded by a thin blotting paper, and suspended in the centre of heating apparatus in company with a thermometer, so placed that its bulb was close to the packets of infected material. With dry heat, it is held that with the articles which can be thoroughly penetrated, a temperature of 212° Fahrenheit throughout the substance may be regarded as sufficient to destroy infection. Exposure to steam or by boiling is even more effective, the experiments showing that after exposure for periods varying from five minutes to an hour by steam at 212° Fahr., the contagia are as potent as fresh. The modes of propagation by which the various diseases are spread at great length, and instructive comparisons made between various machines invented for disinfecting purposes. Experiments explain how extremely difficult it is to secure penetration of a sufficient dry heat into the interior of such articles as pillows and the export mauls, and that there can be no doubt that to procure penetration by heat of badly-conducting material high-pressure steam is the agent par excellence. Unfortunately under both systems of heat-disinfection the articles are liable to injury, such as cracking, scorching, fading of dyes, melting of fusible substances, alteration in colour or gloss, shrinking and felting together of woollen materials. As regards most articles, however, there are machines by which these drawbacks can be avoided. Steam is best adapted for the purification of bedding, bales of goods, bundles of clothing and other objects of penetration. Leather it instantly destroys. The rest of the article deals with the different forms of apparatus adapted for heat disinfection. To those whose means will not allow of their purchasing these machines, it may be stated that for articles which will stand such treatment, boiling in water (with due precautions against reinfection) may be relied on as an efficient means of disinfection.

M. REMENYI.

The *Englishman* of the 9th January says:—In certain respects M. Remenyi's second concert was more wonderful than the first, and it was even better attended. The programme was arranged on a different plan, the first part being classical and the second popular, popular, however, in the highest sense of the term. Mendelssohn and Chopin were set off against a Scotch Fantasia and the well-known 'Caraval of Venice'—masterpieces of the school against which the French claims have sprung into existence almost without the aid of art. It is hardly too much to say that Remenyi brought to light new beauties in Mendelssohn, who was never better treated with greater fidelity or tenderness of interpretation. Musical details will remember that the great composer was told by the critic that in his orchestration the world is not able to supply it, but only serve to make the weakness of the idea more conspicuous. It is not, perhaps, strictly correct to say that the selection of the other night was altogether without the aid of the 'bras', for Remenyi, single handed, can give singular effect to the full phrasing of an Orchestra; but in the violin solo the idea of the master was brought into the clearest prominence, and it seemed to gain in beauty and in delicacy of manipulation. Chopin, again, is admirably suited to the violin, his colour, sensuous passages taking life and drama under the bow and his fertility of invention growing in inexhaustible wonder. The Nocturne was really a fountain of melody; but, paradoxical as it seems, melody was Chopin's weakness. But for his endless melodic flow, he might have been a great dramatic composer; but he constantly subordinates his subject to the music. The charm of Chopin, however, is all-sufficing for the time, and the audience were fairly carried away by the voluptuous strains of the violin, and the Scotch fantasia, it would be difficult to say which produced the most profound impression on the audience, the weird, elastic sadness of 'Auld Robin Gray' or the rugged grandeur of 'The Campbells are Omin'. The air of Lady Nairn's song is very old and has a long life-history and its strain of terrible sadness will form part of the heart-languor of humanity to the end of time. The Highland march is one of the most stirring airs in the rich repertoire of Scotland, and Remenyi simply revelled in its savage impulse and vivid suggestions of reason and terror. Of a very different type the 'Caraval of Venice', although here again we have a fine example of his melodic wealth, has been traced back from period to period until one can imagine a popular tune in the streets of Babylon. The humour of the 'Caraval' was admirably expressed, and the audience were greatly delighted, partly by the humour, and partly by Remenyi's execution. The loud applause that followed was a recognition of his mastery. The 'Caraval' was a triumph of the evening, and in response to an encore sang 'Within a Mile

O' Edinburgh Town', with the emphatic pause on the fashion set by Paul. Mr Luckstone's piano-playing is a treat in itself, and is deserving of more appreciative notice than we have space to give it.

MR DETRING ON THE TRADE OF TIENTSIN.

Mr Detring, in his annual report of the trade of Tientsin for 1892, says:—Considering the physical obstacles to commerce in the north of China and the comparative sparseness of the population in rural districts; that much of the arable area of this province is left barren for want of irrigating canals; that the roads are impassable during the winter, and that the river is closed during another third; and the internal water carriage is all but ineffective; considering all these disadvantages, it is perhaps surprising that Tientsin should be able to distribute 20 millions of taels' worth of merchandise in her short working season. On the other hand, looking at the trade in and out of the port, and the fact of the sudden demand for an article like Cotton Yarn, which has been a staple in the south of China for at least 50 years, and the rapid improvement in an other familiar staple—American Sheetings. 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